

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRINTING BULLETINS

Note: Print half as many lasers as needed since each sheet of paper has 2 bulletins.
Printing on a light tan or cream colored paper will provide a more historical look.

If using a printer which prints 2-sided:

Print page 2 on the front side and page 3 on the back side—landscape (horizontal) printing.

If using a printer which prints 1-sided:

Print page 2, then flip paper, place back in tray and print page 3—landscape (horizontal) printing.

After printing, cut printed bulletins in half. A swing-arm cutter works best.

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For permission to reprint any text or images, please contact:

Kris Norris

by e-mail at bhhs@baptisthistory.org

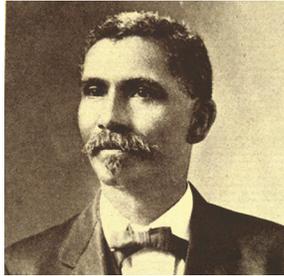
or by phone at (678) 547-6095.

CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF BEING BAPTIST

Baptist Denominational and Moral Leadership

In recent years, Baptists have begun to discuss the need for all Baptists to work together, and some have addressed the racism that has long divided us. Thankfully, Baptists have a great role model in these areas: E. C. Morris.

Born a slave on May 7, 1855, Elias Camp Morris attended school occasionally during his childhood, but he was mostly self-educated. After completing an apprenticeship as a shoemaker, he supported himself by making shoes.



E. C. Morris

In 1874, Morris converted to Christianity and the next year was called to the ministry. He moved in 1876 to Helena, Arkansas, made shoes during the week, and preached on Sundays. Called to pastor Centennial Baptist Church in Helena in 1879, Morris served that church for forty-three years. Early in his tenure, he rose to prominence as a leader among Arkansas Baptists, helping organize three black Baptist associations and serving as secretary and then president for thirty-five years of the black Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He also supervised the development of a state denominational newspaper, the *Arkansas Times* (later the *Baptist Vanguard*).

As a denominational leader, Morris helped found an African American Baptist seminary in 1884. Originally known as the Minister's Institute, the school took the name Arkansas Baptist College in 1886. Located in Little Rock, the college continues the mission envisioned by Morris.

In 1895, Morris transitioned from state denominational leader to national denominational leader when he was elected president of the newly-established National Baptist Convention, a position he held for twenty-seven years. Morris also worked with white Baptists, speaking at the white Baptist's 1911 Arkansas state convention and serving on the predominantly white executive committees of the General Convention of Baptists of North America, the Baptist World Alliance, and the Congress of English Speaking Peoples of the World. He also served as a vice president of the interracial Federal Council of Churches of Christ.

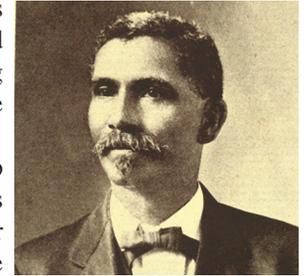
From his pulpit and in convention halls, Morris denounced prejudice and racism, advocating for the civil liberties of African Americans. Baptists today need to be reminded of Morris's great legacy: his long tenure as pastor, his participation in the founding and support of a Baptist college, his faithful leadership of state and national denominational organizations, his charismatic preaching, and his willingness to speak truth to people of all races on the important issues of his day.

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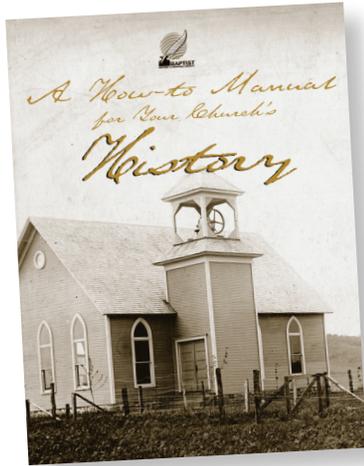
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Bruce T. Gourley and
Pamela R. Durso



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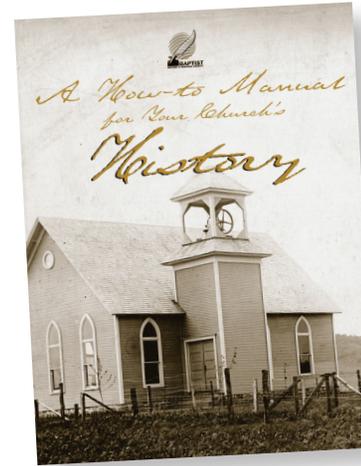
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This bulletin insert is the ninth of twelve to be provided monthly during 2009 by the Baptist History and Heritage Society and The Center for Baptist Studies. The article was written by Pamela R. Durso, executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry, Atlanta, Georgia.

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